

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Issued: 16th January 2025

The following decisions in this notice were made by the Executive on Thursday 16th January 2025.

Any decisions identified below as a **KEY DECISION** will come into force and may be implemented on 24th January 2025, unless the decision is subject to call-in, in accordance with section 18 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules within North Northamptonshire Council’s Constitution.

Requests for Call-In

A request for call-in shall only be considered to be valid if signed by at least 8 members of the Council (10% of the total number of members) who are not members of the Executive. One of the requestors must identify themselves as the originator of the request and the request must specify the nature of the grounds relied upon. A call-in request must be in the form of a written notice submitted to the Monitoring Officer and received before the published deadline. Either one notice containing all required signatures or up to 8 separate e-mails (as appropriate) will be acceptable.

The notice must set out:-

- (a) the resolution or resolutions that the member(s) wish to call in;
- (b) the reasons why they wish the Scrutiny Management Board to consider referring it back to the Executive, with particular reference to the principles of decision making set out elsewhere within this Constitution; and
- (c) the alternative course of action or recommendations that they wish to propose.

Agenda Item No	Subject	Decision
----------------	---------	----------

Part A – Items considered in public

Item 4	Post-Financial Settlement Budget Update	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p>
--------	---	---

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>a) Noted the funding changes to the draft budget as set out in Table 2.</p> <p>b) Approved the reduction in the waste management inflationary increase from £756k, as presented in the draft budget report to the Executive at the meeting on 19th December 2024 by £241k to £505k.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations; To ensure that the Council complies with its Constitution and legislative requirements in setting the budget for North Northamptonshire Council from 2025-26.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered – The formal budget consultation commenced on 19th December 2024 when the draft budget report was presented to the Executive. This report provides an update following the announcement of the provisional financial settlement and any comments from this report and the report presented to the Executive at the meeting on the 19th December 2024 will be considered as part of the consultation process.</p>
Item 5	Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive approved the proposals detailed within the report at a) - m) to be incorporated into North Northamptonshire Council’s revised Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy:</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p><u>Proposal 1: Discretionary DFG Grant (Top-Up)</u></p> <p>The current maximum Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant is £30,000. The current maximum Discretionary Disabled Facilities Grant (Top-Up) is £10,000.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Discretionary DFG Grant (Top-Up) is increased from £10,000 to £20,000.</p> <p>Reasons for recommendation - This proposal will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide extra funding for those cases that have increased labour and materials costs. • Provide extra funding for those complex cases with extensive scope of works. • Reduce Officer time of involvement (Surveyor and OT) and reduce MP complaints by frustrated applicants. • Reduce timescales required from start to project completion. <p>Alternative recommendation considered: According to Foundations (The National Body for Disabled Facilities Grants and Home Improvement Agencies in England), the Discretionary Disabled Facilities Grant (Top-Up) should be £30,000. This figure has been considered and assessed against data based on research on various recently published Housing Assistance Policies from several Councils, including Unitary Authorities from various geographical areas - excluding London Boroughs - with similar or lower Annual Disabled Facilities Grants Funding Allocations for 2023/2024 – in addition to the £30,000 mandatory grant funding. The proposal of £20,000 is in line with the figure implemented by other Unitary Councils and it is proposed that this will be</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>annually reviewed and always subject to funding availability.</p> <p><u>Proposal 2: Means Test Equipment</u></p> <p>According to the current policy, all DFG works are means tested, excluding children’s applications and applicants with passporting benefits.</p> <p>It is recommended that there be no means test for equipment cases (installation of a stair-lift, or a ceiling track hoist (CTH), not associated with any other DFG funded building works), up to a maximum cost of £10,000 is introduced.</p> <p>Reasons for recommendation -</p> <p>This proposal will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce Officer time (approx. 45 minutes - 1 ½ hours) and benefit the applicant. • Assist the applicant by removing the requirement for paperwork/evidence submission (bank statements etc.). • Reduce timescales required from start to project completion (4-8 weeks). <p>Alternative recommendation considered – At EAP, members suggested that the original figure of £8,000 is increased to £10,000. When the initial figure to be put forward (£8,000) was considered, this was on the basis that a curved stair-lift or an H-shaped ceiling track hoist (which are the most expensive types of equipment included in this proposal) can be fully covered. It has since been reconsidered and the revised proposal for this is £10,000.</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p><u>Proposal 3: Means Test (Discretionary Top up - Children's cases)</u></p> <p>The current policy does not allow for all means tested applicants with a confirmed client's contribution to be eligible for a Discretionary DFG Grant (Top-Up). Applicants with passporting benefits and children's applications are eligible for a Discretionary DFG (Top-Up), as the parents are not means tested.</p> <p>This proposal is no longer going forward, i.e. to means test parents for children's applications with regards to the Discretionary DFG Grant (Top-Up) only, so it is now disregarded.</p> <p><u>Proposal 4: Land Charges</u></p> <p>The current policy stipulates for the following land charges to apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory £30K grant: Maximum land charge £10,000 (from £5,000K to £15,000) • Same terms apply on the Discretionary Grant of £10,000: Maximum land charge £5,000. <p>The two grants are treated as separate awards with a total maximum land charge of £15,000 (£10,000 on mandatory and £5,000 on discretionary) No land charge on tenant's applications (private Landlords or Housing Associations)</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>It is recommended that Executive approve the following: No land charge placed on Through Floor Lift (TFL) cases, including enabling works. No land charge placed on stair-lifts. No land charge placed for any amount below £200. No land charged placed for a child applicant on long-term foster placement. Land charge waived due to financial hardship and/or if moving properties is to receive care from others.</p> <p>Reasons for recommendation -</p> <p>It is recommended that land charges do not apply on the above works because they do not add financial value to the property and/or the proposals are reasonable.</p> <p>Alternative recommendation considered –</p> <p>At EAP, members felt that the amount of £200 – mentioned under item 3 above – was too low to justify the expense of registering a land charge. It was suggested that a higher amount of £1,000 could be considered.</p> <p><u>Proposal 5: Fast Track Adaptations</u></p> <p>Under the current policy, there is a single North Northamptonshire Waiting List for DFGs. The cases are prioritised based on the priority grading system set by the Occupational Therapist (OT) - standard, urgent or critical - and the date on the OT</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>recommendation.</p> <p>It is recommended that a “Fast Tracking” process is introduced, outside of the OT priority grading system mentioned above, to assist with hospital discharge cases, terminally ill applicants and palliative care.</p> <p>Reasons for recommendation -</p> <p>Bureaucracy will be minimised where possible and alternative equipment / construction solutions will be explored.</p> <p>Alternative recommendation considered –</p> <p>At EAP, members were satisfied with the above proposal and made no further recommendations.</p> <p><u>Proposal 6: Dementia Grants</u></p> <p>- Dementia Grants are not covered by the current policy.</p> <p>It is proposed that these grants are based on the initial dementia diagnosis and prior to the disease escalating to the stage when major DFG adaptations are recommended. The following adaptations would be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer flooring. • Labels and signs on doors and cupboards.

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contrasting colour decorations between walls and floors. • Installation of contrasting coloured fixtures such as grab rails and toilet seats. • Task focused lighting in bathrooms and kitchens. • Assistive technology for monitoring activity or to inform if it is day or night. <p>It is recommended that the dementia grants are covered by the policy as proposed above with works with a cost value of over £1000. Note that any works below this amount can be covered by the Minor Adaptations budget held by Community Occupational Therapy.</p> <p>Reasons for recommendation</p> <p>This proposal will: Postpone or eliminate the need for more costly adaptations, re-housing, social care due to its preventative nature. Promote independent and safe living.</p> <p>Alternative recommendation considered - At EAP, members were satisfied with the above proposal and made no further recommendations.</p> <p><u>Proposal 7: Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Grants</u></p> <p>Motor Neurone Disease Grants are not covered by the current policy. Applicants with an early MND diagnosis can continue and will choose to carry on working until no longer able to work. Applying for a DFG at this stage will most likely deem them as non-eligible for the grant through the means testing process due to their earnings.</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>It is recommended to introduce this grant on the basis of disregarding their earnings. This will ensure the adaptations can be in place for when they no longer work and are unable to manage daily activities.</p> <p>Reasons for recommendation</p> <p>This proposal will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a fast-track process. • Ensure no means test is carried out for cost of works up to £5K. • Ignore the applicant’s earnings when means testing is carried out at an early stage. • Enable major adaptations before the disease escalates rapidly. <p>Alternative recommendation considered – At EAP, members were satisfied with the above proposal and made no further recommendations.</p> <p><u>Proposal 8: Independent Panel</u></p> <p>The current policy, subject to eligibility, allows for applicants to be entitled to a £30,000 mandatory grant and a £10,000 discretionary grant. If the cost of work exceeds the maximum £40,000 grant, the applicant is required to meet the shortfall, or the works cannot progress.</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>It is recommended for the introduction of an independent member/officer Panel to review cases on an ad-hoc basis, understand needs and approve further discretionary grants to meet the cost difference over the approved mandatory and discretionary limits, subject to evidence that the applicant is unable to raise the necessary funds themselves.</p> <p>Reasons for recommendation -</p> <p>This proposal will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable major adaptations to proceed. • Potentially provide some savings on Adult Social Care budgets as residents remain in their homes. • Eliminate cases being put on hold until a resolution to the financial shortfall is found. • Prevent time consuming conversations on alternative solutions. • Ensure adaptations are completed for the benefit of the applicant. <p>This recommendation needs to be formalised by including it in the revised policy. At EAP, members were satisfied with the above proposal and agreed that there will be no need for a monthly set date for the panel members to meet. Instead, these meetings will be called on an ad-hoc basis, and the conversations/decisions can be made over Teams.</p> <p>Alternative recommendation considered – The current arrangement of exceptional approval via the Assistant Director for Regulatory Services and Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling Up has been informally in place for a while and to maintain this status quo could be considered as an alternative to the proposed</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>Independent Panel.</p> <p><u>Proposal 9: Equipment Maintenance</u></p> <p>The current policy stipulates that all equipment is covered by the standard 12-month warranty offered by the supplier. After completion of the work, any ongoing maintenance, servicing, repairs, or warranties are the responsibility of the grant recipient. The grant recipient can request a quote for extending the manufacturer’s warranty (normally up to 5 years) and purchase this service at their own cost.</p> <p>It is recommended that all extended warranties are covered by the grant for all equipment for 5 years. Additionally, it is proposed that the grant covers the call out fees, if contacted by the applicant, including any repairs up to £500.</p> <p>Reasons for recommendation -</p> <p>This proposal will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a better service. • Assist old applicants with broken equipment up to value of £500. • Reduce the need for an OT recommendation for new equipment, which will be a saving to the DFG budget. <p>Alternative recommendation considered –</p> <p>At EAP, members were keen to ensure the clients’ statutory rights are safeguarded. Consideration will be, therefore, given in training the Council’s relevant Officers on consumer rights. This training would enable the Council to provide the necessary</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>advice to the applicants.</p> <p><u>Proposal 10: Private Landlords (LL) and Housing Associations (HA)</u></p> <p>The current policy does not allow for any special provisions for private or social housing tenants. The same DFG eligibility criteria and conditions apply to tenants as owner / occupiers.</p> <p>It is recommended that the policy will allow to expediate the grant application process for private and social tenants, if: the private LL or HA make the application and manage the works, including provision of drawings / specification for Council’s approval and / or carrying out the works.</p> <p>Reasons for recommendation -</p> <p>This proposal will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a positive change for tenants – shorter waiting times. • Assist with Officer time being able to be spent on other cases. • Support landlords to make their portfolios more accessible for current and future disabled tenants. <p>Alternative recommendation considered – At EAP, members were satisfied with the above proposal and made no further recommendations.</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p><u>Proposal 11: Non-mandatory works</u></p> <p>The current policy makes no special provisions for non-mandatory DFG works not covered by the legislation e.g. safe play space and/or play equipment, sensory space, or study space. There are several variables to set a fixed policy on awards for non-mandatory works.</p> <p>It is recommended that the following changes are approved with respect to non-mandatory work:</p> <p>All proposed non-mandatory work will be reviewed between the Lead Officer for DFGs, Surveyor, OT, carers, special support, GP etc. before confirming them as reasonable, practicable and required by the applicant.</p> <p>All non-mandatory work up to an estimated cost value of £1,000 will be approved by the Disabled Facilities Grants Manager.</p> <p>All non-mandatory work, of a more extensive design proposal, will be subject to a feasibility visit by a surveyor to identify the estimated cost of works. If in excess of £1,000 and subject to the approval in principle by the Disabled Facilities Grants Manager, the case will be reviewed by the Independent Panel before approval or rejection can be confirmed.</p> <p>Reasons for recommendation -</p> <p>To assist more people, even those not necessarily covered by the legislation.</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>Alternative recommendation considered - At EAP, members wished to know whether the above proposal will affect different groups of people differently, and if social housing tenants or leaseholders for flats or communal areas would be excluded. This proposal will apply to all groups of people deemed as eligible for a DFG in line with the relevant legislation. It is confirmed that the following applies: Leaseholders are eligible for DFGs, provided they meet the grant's criteria related to disability and income assessment. The remaining lease term is not less than a period of five years. Communal areas are included, subject to receipt of the owner's permission.</p> <p><u>Proposal 12: Unchanged Policy: HomeMove Grants</u></p> <p>It is recommended that there is no change to the following grant conditions: To fund more cost-effective alternatives to providing a mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant. Maximum grant £6,000. Cost of adaptations (maximum £5,000). Relocation costs (maximum £1,000).</p> <p>Alternative recommendation considered – At EAP, members questioned whether the cost of moving properties has risen due to inflation and whether £6,000 is still adequate assistance. The following has since been determined: A person who lives in England or Wales and is in receipt of Housing Benefits, could</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) to help with moving costs. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Moving House Grant amounts vary based on an individual's circumstances and are generally intended to cover moving-related costs like removal charges, rent deposits, and related expenses. The maximum grant available is £5,000 but could be as low as £500. Given that the Government provides this £5,000 for eligible residents, it has been deemed unnecessary to increase the Council's HomeMove grant.</p> <p><u>Proposal 13: Other Policies: Home Repair Grant</u></p> <p>It is recommended that all grants included in the current policy, namely Renovation Grants (maximum grant £10,000), Landlord Renovation Grants (maximum grant £10,000) and Home Repair Assistance Grants (maximum grant £5,000) are replaced with one Home Repair Grant.</p> <p>This grant will offer a maximum £15,000 assistance to eligible owner-occupied residents, on a means tested benefit and/or low income. This grant aims to prevent Category 1 hazards in the property, address safety improvements, electrical works, thermal insulation, affordable warmth, energy efficiency or lack of a heating system.</p>
Item 6	Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>That the Executive approved the Highway Asset Management Policy and Strategy.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations – The updates to these documents are the first step in refreshing the wide suite of documents that govern how the Council manages and maintains its highway network. By adopting these new documents the Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a clear strategic position that supports ongoing operational requirements and the Council’s duties under the Highways Act 1980. • Enact a rebrand of key documents under the North Northamptonshire Council banner • Set the basis for the cost effective management of highway assets • Improve its decision making in terms of budget disaggregation and future investment. • Provide a framework that gives clarity to service users as to what its priorities and service standards are. <p>Alternative Options Considered – The alternative option is not to adopt the revised Policy and Strategy. The Council would continue to deliver its highway services through its contract with Kier and the overarching guidance governing these activities would continue to be the 2019 Northamptonshire County Council documents. However, the previous guidance does not reflect the specific needs of North Northamptonshire, nor does it present a credible approach to the way the Council makes decisions on how it prioritises the funds available for highway maintenance across its highway network. For these reasons, this option is not recommended.</p>
Item 7	Active Communities Strategic	RESOLVED

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
	<p>Framework</p>	<p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approved the Active Communities Strategy; b) Approved the Leisure Facilities Strategy; c) Approved the Playing Pitch Strategy; d) Delegated authority to the Assistant Director, Communities and Leisure in consultation with the Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism to take any actions necessary to further develop detailed action plans and investment plans which will support delivery of the strategies. <p>Reasons for Recommendations: To support the Council and its partners to prioritise activities which will increase physical activity levels, which in turn will help to improve health outcomes, reduce health inequalities, improve community connectedness and cohesion and promote a sense of pride in place. In addition to inform future investment plans which will assist the Council to secure developer contributions and other external funding to deliver the recommendations in the Leisure Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategies.</p> <p>Alternative Options considered:</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The alternative option would be to not develop an Active Communities strategic framework and instead to develop separate Leisure, Leisure Facilities and Playing Pitch strategies in isolation of each other. The Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategies are legally required under the National Planning Policy Framework and so there is no other option than to produce them for North Northamptonshire. • The option to develop a separate Leisure strategy is not recommended because a traditional leisure strategy would have focussed simply on the Council’s leisure service offer. It would not have taken a whole systems approach to increasing physical activity, working with our partners, our sports clubs and our communities and taking the broadest view possible of the sorts of activity and the environment and infrastructure which helps make being active the easy choice for our residents, workforce and visitors. This would have considerably limited the opportunities and impact of this strategic framework, not just on physical activity levels but on the population health and wellbeing and reduction in health inequalities outcomes for the residents and communities of North Northamptonshire. • The Active Communities strategic framework, based on comprehensive data, evidence and intelligence, will inform such things as future partnership activity and feasibility studies which are required to secure external funding and developer contributions to enable investment into the North Northamptonshire assets and infrastructure. It will also ensure a co-ordinated approach to the Council’s corporate and Big 50 Vision and to the Integrated Care System strategic objectives.

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
Item 8	Knights Farm, Rushden – Overage Agreement	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Agreed to a further extension to April 2026 of the Planning Longstop date in the Promotion Agreement and consequently an extension to the Deed of Variation on the same terms approved by the Executive in December 2023. ii) Delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Assets and Environment in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways, Travel & Assets, to approve further extensions to the Promotion Agreement and Deed of Variation, should that be required. <p>Reasons for Recommendation: The reasons for recommending the extension of the Planning Longstop date in the Promotion Agreement is that it will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide a more definite timeframe for Planning to be resolved as April 2025 is now looking unlikely. b) It will provide the Council with the most certainty that the scheme will be brought forward for housing. c) The Deed of Variation to the overage provision on the title to the land will continue as long as there is a valid Promotion Agreement. Agreeing to extend the Planning Longstop date is the most cost-effective way to ensure

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>that the Deed of Variation to the overage provision continues and significantly reduces the amount of legal and other professional fees potentially payable by the Council.</p> <p>d) The decision supports the corporate plan and the Rushden East Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE).</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: If the Council does not consent to extend the Planning Longstop Date in the Promotion Agreement, the Deed of Variation to the overage provisions on the Land's Title will expire after 30th April 2025 and any subsequent change of use or planning consent would be subject to the original (unvaried) transfer terms as set out in the original overage agreement. This would hypothetically result in a larger capital receipt for the Council; however, the Landowner and Promotor have stated that if they cannot obtain an extension from the Council, they will not pursue the Promotion Agreement and Planning Application and will let it lapse. This would result in the site not being developed and would create issues for the Rushden (SUE) because it sits in the centre of the site, and the Council would not receive a capital receipt.</p>
Item 9	Earls Barton Primary School Expansion - Additional Funding	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <p>a) Noted the request contained in the Capital Update Report elsewhere</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>on the agenda for budget approval for £761.3k of additional funding from DFE Basic Needs Funding to complete the Earls Barton Primary School Expansion scheme.</p> <p>b) Delegated to the Executive Director of Children’s Services in consultation with the Executive Member of Children, Families, Education and to take all necessary actions to deliver the project.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations: The recommendations set out above allow the Council to move forward with the Expansion of Earls Barton Primary School by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopting the most cost-effective course of action. • Minimising financial risk to the Council of further increased costs and liabilities to stop works. • Supporting the Council in delivering its statutory duties to provide a sufficient supply of school places. <p>Alternative Options Considered: The only other option available to the Council is if we do not provide the additional funding, this would therefore stop the construction and termination of the contract:</p> <p>a) There would be significant costs to the Council to shut down the works, as the site is currently a construction site and would need to be returned to a useable state and council has entered a contract therefore there could be legal costs relating to contract terminations.</p> <p>b) The S106 funding was directly attributed to Earls Barton Primary School and if it cannot be spent on this school would have to be discussed by</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>with the developers and may need to be handed back.</p> <p>c) There would be significant reputational damage to abandon a school project after construction works have started.</p> <p>d) NNC have a duty to provide sufficient school places.</p>
Item 10	Green Hill Solar Farm	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <p>a) Endorsed the Regulation 11 Notice to submit a draft statutory consultation response on the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) in regard to the proposed Green Hill Solar Farm.</p> <p>b) Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Place and Economy, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration, to respond to consultations and engagement from the developer and the Planning Inspectorate (including the Examining Authority) during the following Development Consent Order stages: Pre-application; Acceptance; Pre-Examination; Examination; and Post-Examination.</p> <p>c) Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Place and Economy to deal with post-decision matters (if development consent is granted) including matters such as determination of</p>

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p align="center">applications under the Development Consent Order consenting regime and enforcement in respect of any Development Consent Order granted by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To adhere to the guidance set down by the Planning Inspectorate to ensure adequate delegations are in place to enable the Council to represent the interests of North Northamptonshire Council as ‘Host Authority’ and participate in the Development Consent Order stages within the tight formal timeframes. <p>Alternative Options Considered –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been considered whether the authority of the Executive should

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>be sought at each of the different stages of the Development Consent Order process. This has been rejected due to the need to meet statutory timescales and the risk that the impacts of the development on North Northamptonshire’s local communities would not be fully considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council could also decide not to respond further to the Development Consent Order process. This course of action is not recommended due to the risk that the impacts of the development on North Northamptonshire’s local communities would not be fully considered and any opportunity to secure mitigation for the impacts would be lost should consent be granted. Furthermore, this option is likely to be reputationally damaging to the Council, especially given its status as a ‘Statutory Consultee’ and ‘Host Authority’.
Item 11	Capital Programme Update 2024/25	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Approved the following changes into the capital programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Earls Barton School Expansion – additional budget approval of £762k

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p align="center">in 2025/26 to be funded from Basic Needs capital grant.</p> <p>b. Swanspool Tennis Courts refurbishment – budget approval of £70k in 2024/25, to be funded £50k from external grant and £20k from capital receipts.</p> <p>c. West Glebe Park, astroturf resurfacing – budget approval for £55k in 2025/26, to be funded £25k from external grant and £30k virement from the Leisure minor works budget.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations: These are set out in greater detail within section 5 of the report, but can be summarised as helping to meet the Council’s corporate plan objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green sustainable environment - Better, brighter futures - Safe and thriving places - Connected communities - Active, fulfilled lives <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For those schemes which are grant funded or from Section 106 contributions, they are undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the grant conditions/ legal agreement and, therefore, there is no alternative option proposed in this report.

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 January 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where individual schemes are over £0.5m, separate reports are included elsewhere on this agenda, and these set out the wider options that were considered before reaching the proposals put forward.